

## **MINUTES**

### **MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 58th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

#### **JOINT APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON EDUCATION**

**Call to Order:** By **CHAIRMAN DONALD L. HEDGES**, on February 7, 2003  
at 8:08 A.M., in Room 102 Capitol.

#### **ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:**

Rep. Donald L. Hedges, Chairman (R)  
Sen. Royal Johnson, Vice Chairman (R)  
Rep. Rosalie (Rosie) Buzzas (D)  
Sen. John Esp (R)  
Rep. Dave Lewis (R)  
Sen. Bea McCarthy (D)

**Members Excused:** Rep. Eve Franklin (D) arrived at 8:10.

**Members Absent:** None.

**Staff Present:** Mark Bruno, OBPP  
Pam Joehler, Legislative Branch  
Diana Williams, Committee Secretary

**Please Note:** These are summary minutes. Testimony and  
discussion are paraphrased and condensed.  
Tape counter notations refer to the material  
immediately preceding.

**Committee Business Summary:**

Hearing & Date Posted: Agricultural Experiment Station;  
Extension Service; Fire Services  
Training School

Executive Action: None

Prior to the meeting Pam Joehler, Legislative Fiscal Division handed out the document that Carrol Krause, Interim Commissioner of Higher Education, provided to the Subcommittee. He was asked to review the relationship between the Global Justice Action Summit and the University of Montana. Exhibit 1 is his findings. Included in his review is a copy of the Global Justice Active Summit pamphlet.

**EXHIBIT(jeh27a01)**

Privatization: An Unheralded Trend in Public Higher Education by George M. Dennison, President, University of Montana was also distributed to the Subcommittee.

**EXHIBIT(jeh27a02)**

**HEARING ON AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION (MAES)**

**President Geoff Gamble, Montana State University, introduced Dr. Sharron Quisenberry, Dean of the College of Agriculture and Director of the Agricultural Experiment Station**

**Overview of Agency:**

Dr. Quisenberry provided the Subcommittee 3 documents that pertain to the Experimental Station.

One is Montana Agricultural Experiment Station System, An Innovative Investment in Montana, 2003-2005 (Exhibit 3). This book provides a brief introduction, illustrates the economic importance of agriculture, and explains the rate of return from the Agricultural Research efforts. The bulk of the book is devoted to the MAES research and outreach programs. It explains in detail the current programs at MAES.

Our lands, our health, our children, our livelihoods is a brochure that is divided into Crops and Livestock, Stewards of the Land and Looking Toward the Future. It explains some of the research activities that are at MAES and is Exhibit 4.

The last document (Exhibit 5) provides contact sources for the various research programs that are at the Experiment Stations as well as listing information on the departments at MSU that are partners with MAES. The first page supplies a brief explanation of what MAES does.

**EXHIBIT(jeh27a03)**

**EXHIBIT(jeh27a04)**

**EXHIBIT(jeh27a05)**

**Dr. Quisenberry** said that the mission of MAES is to serve the people of the Montana. The research efforts are focused on providing solutions that add value to Montana's agriculture as well as the state's natural resources. Her presentation focused on the projects that have been going on since 2000. And with some of the projects she addressed the potential economic benefit that these projects may have for the producer and Montana.

**Dr. Quisenberry** briefly explained some of the research projects that are occurring at the Southern Agricultural Research Center and at Northwest Agricultural Research Center. She talked about the biobased program, as well as equine nutrition and care products. She went over other programs and said that Montana Agricultural Experiment Station System (Exhibit 3) provides a greater explanation into the various projects that are at MAES.

**Dr. Quisenberry** ended this part of the presentation by saying that the agricultural experiment station provides educational opportunities for students and complements MSU's undergraduate, graduate and outreach education by recruiting and retaining high quality faculty. The faculties enhance hands-on education through the research that is done by student internships.

***{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 0 - 12.3}***

The presentation then focused on the budget. A document was supplied to the Subcommittee that simplified the budget issues into four separate sections. It is Exhibit 6.

**Dr. Quisenberry** said that with the Governor's Budget of General Fund at \$10.18 million there would still be a shortfall of some \$300,000 in both years. She then explained how the budget shortfall would be addressed if MAES had to work from the 2000 level as well as if the agency could work from the Governor's budget.

**EXHIBIT (jeh27a06)**

**Dr. Quisenberry** wanted to bring to the attention two things about MAES. The first is that the experiment station doesn't benefit from tuition increases. She said, "Our budgets are totally separate and we do not have any way of raising revenues." The other issue dealt with the budget of \$13.3 million. She said that part of money is earmarked for the Miles City agreement. She said that the federal tax dollars that are attached to this budget is a stagnate number and won't increase.

**Dr. Quisenberry** ended her presentation by saying that the mission of MAES is to serve the people of Montana and to insure that MAES

can provide solutions to problems in relation to agriculture as well as natural resources. She said that through the investments in agricultural research over the years, Montana has seen a sizable return in that investment. She said "You wouldn't have the agricultural industry in this state if you didn't have the research that is ongoing and very strong research."

***{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 12.3 - 18.2}***

**Proponents' Testimony:**

**Steve Simonson, representing the Western and Northwestern Agricultural Research Centers**, is an agricultural producer in Sanders County. He explained how the MAES is an integral part of his farming operations. He went to the centers to seek out advice on ways to diversify the farm operations. Without the assistance from these centers he said that he wouldn't be able to keep his farm. He asked the Subcommittee to restore the budget to the 2002 level and in addition provide \$5 million more so that the research can stay competitive.

**EXHIBIT (jeh27a07)**

***{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 18.2 - 21.5}***

**Mark Peterson, farmer in Northcentral Montana north of Havre**, handed out testimony from Kent Wasson, farmer in Phillips County, who was unable to be at the meeting (Exhibit 8) and additional information on wheat stem sawfly management (Exhibit 9).

Included in Exhibit 9 are 3 pages of pictures. One page shows the wheat that is infested by sawfly larvae. The next page addresses the damages that occur and the last page shows how the sawfly larvae are attacked. A two-page document explains in greater detail the what steam sawfly management project and is part of Exhibit 9.

**Mr. Peterson** went over the "trickle down effect" of the 10 to 15 million bushels of wheat lost to sawfly in any given year. He started with the lost income from the farmer, then addressed the losses that occur in the transportation and the storage of the grain, as well as the loss in the state and local taxes. He said that Montana cities and towns are losing as well.

**Mr. Peterson** said that producers are losing five to thirty percent of their wheat crop every year. MSU has been working hard to help with this problem. They have identified four areas of control -- chemical ecology, biological control, pathogens and are also investigating new leads for resisting varieties. MSU is

working hard to help the economy of Montana. Research and extension are very important to the sustainable of Montana's Agriculture. He asked that the Committee please support these agencies.

**EXHIBIT (jeh27a08)**

**EXHIBIT (jeh27a09)**

***{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 21.5 - 24.2}***

**Dean Peterson, rancher and farmer near Judith Gap,** distributed his testimony and briefly went over it.

He explained the benefits that have occurred to his farm and ranch due to the involvement of MAES. He said that only through the continuation of all the programs that are supplied to him, can he continue to be a viable farm/ranch in Montana. He said that he could not afford and does not have the expertise to be a farmer/rancher on his own. He urged the Committee to continue to fund this agency.

**EXHIBIT (jeh27a10)**

***{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 24.2 - 28.5}***

**Kelly Brester, Director of the Mountain States Beet Growers Association of Montana, representing sugar beet growers throughout the Yellowstone Valley,** stated the benefits that have occurred due to the research projects that deal with sugar beets at MAES. He said that the growers of Western Sugar Cooperative have made a major financial commitment to the sugar industry in Montana when they purchased the Western Sugar factory. Maintaining adequate funding of the research stations will help assure Montana sugar beet growers that these producers can supply the state an inexpensive product for the consumers of Montana.

***{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 28.5 - 30}***

***{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 0 - 0.4}***

**Dan Debuff, Director of District V of the Montana Wheat and Barley Committee,** handed out a copy of his testimony. He said that the foreign market's demand for quality and quantity of the agricultural products are meet due to the involvement of Montana State University both in the College of Agriculture and Research Center System.

**Mr. Debuff** said that agriculture is the number one contributor directly or indirectly to the General Fund. He therefore believes that the farmers and ranchers deserve an equitable

return on the tax dollar to support this industry. He asked the Committee to support MAES's budget. He said that the economic health of the agriculture research community is a direct reflection of Montana's economic future.

**EXHIBIT(jeh27a11)**

***{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 0.4 - 5}***

**Terral Balzer, farmer on Huntley Project**, provided written testimony (Exhibit 12). He explained some specific research projects that he implemented on his farm.

**Mr. Balzer** also read a letter from Wade Malchow, Coors Brewing Comany, that addressed some of the concerns Coors has with the funding situation of the MAES system and the Southern Ag Research Center at Huntley in particular (Exhibit 13).

**Mr. Balzer** talked about the informative meetings and sessions that are provided to producers - 18 of the 27 sessions presented by MSU researchers. And he addressed the cash flow problem that he was facing. To him, research allows him to stay in the farming business.

**EXHIBIT(jeh27a12)**

**EXHIBIT(jeh27a13)**

***{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 5 - 19.2}***

**Bill Kennedy, Yellowstone County Commissioner**, speaking for the full commission today, spoke in favor of funding for the Southern Ag Research Station. He focused on how the Southern Ag Research Station has provided economic development and how pulling together has allowed Western Sugar to stay open for business.

**Mr. Kennedy** said that he talked with other commissioners statewide. Research is needed to keep the jobs going. He said that agriculture is the number one industry in the state of Montana. Jobs provide the base for the economy.

**Mr. Kennedy** said, "I am asking you not to just look at the bare bones but to put a few more dollars in so we can keep it [the station] alive and well. Economic development, jobs. That's a real theme around here. Everyone talks about it. Let's live it."

**Mr. Kennedy** said that Charles Brooks couldn't be here, but ask that the Billings Chamber of Commerce go on record in favor of funding this program.

**{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 19.2 - 23.7}**

**REP. MONICA LINDEEN, representing HD 7**, who lives in Huntley, the home to the Southern Ag Research Center, explained that Montana families involved in agriculture have always made a commitment to this State and this Nation. The question she had was, "What's our commitment to these people?"

**REP. MONICA LINDEEN** said that balancing the budget is like balancing a check book. She asked, "Should we instead also be looking at balancing that budget like an outline of our dreams for the future? If our dreams for the future include a healthy agricultural industry in this state, what is our dream for the future?"

**{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 23.7 - 25.3}**

**Jerry Lipsey, American Seminal Association**, wanted to share some comments before addressing MAES. He said, "No one committee has greater potential to determine Montana's future than yours. I hope you appreciate that the people of this state elected you to set our future. I believe that your committee is one of the most important in this entire legislature."

**Mr. Lipsey's** testimony wasn't on the facts and figures that are produced because of the agricultural industry. His presentation focused on freedom. He said that the way freedom has been developed is through feeding, educating and defending ourselves. He said, "Is there any one place that this committee could put our precious resources in a better position than MSU Agricultural Extension service and Extension and Outreach. Those things do more to feed and to educate our people and the people of this county than any other resource that we might use."

**Mr. Lipsey** explained that he has lived in four different states and the natives of every state believe that their state is unique. He said, "After four states I've come to realize that we are very, very similar. There's just two things that will determine our future. That is how judiciously and carefully we harvest our natural resources and the second variable is the intellect, the skills and the motivation of our people."

**Mr. Lipsey** asked that the Subcommittee give their utmost concern over supporting MSU and the Experimental Station.

**{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 25.3 - 27.8}**

**{Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 0 - 0.2}**

**Robert Hanson, State Vice President of Farm Bureau, representing Farm Bureau Federation Montana,** said that the great ideas that are conceived from "the hallowed halls of MSU," never become implemented unless the experiment stations are there. The experiment stations will show how viable the ideas are for Montana's agriculture.

The Farm Bureau is asking for full funding for the Experiment Stations, or at least to the Governor's Base Budget.

*{Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 0.1 - 1}*

**Chuck Saxton, Farmer/Rancher south of Chester,** explained how the experimental station has helped his business. Now he can plant rambart in highly infested softfly areas. He said that this is only one example of the many that can be sited that help Montana producers. He said that the bottom line is that this research makes Montana agri-business more money, which in turn makes more money (taxes) for the State of Montana.

**Mr. Saxton** said that he is aware with the budget deficit, programs will be cut. He asked that the Subcommittee keep in mind that with his business, the experiment station's research allows him to be more efficient and productive.

*{Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 1 - 2.4}*

**Lance Juedeman, Farmer from Geraldine,** said that this was the first time that he provided testimony but he felt it was important to do. He left Geraldine at 4 o'clock in the morning to get here. He said, "I am a University of Montana alumni in support of MSU so you know that this is important to me."

Due to the number of people testifying **Mr. Juedeman** submitted his testimony without reading it.

**EXHIBIT** (jeh27a14)

*{Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 2.4 - 2.9}*

**Arleen Rice, 3rd generation Hill County Producer, and President of Montana Agricultural Business Association (MABA)** said that the research stations in Montana help the entire MABA membership. She said that quite often manufacturers provide data that doesn't really apply to Montana, so the farmers/rancher need to learn how to apply that information to Montana climates.

The Northern Research Station has helped **Ms. Rice** make money, helped the producers make money and the State make money. She



said "Your investment comes back 100 fold." She said that it is critical that a long term funding solution is found.

**Ms. Rice** went over her concerns about the faculty positions and in particular the lack of a weed scientist and she said that Montana is falling way behind.

**Ms. Rice** said that each of the stations provide unique and critical data and said that these stations cannot afford to be running stagnate if agriculture is going to progress and move forward.

*{Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 2.9 - 4.4}*

**John Swanz, President of the Montana Stock Growers (MSGA) and rancher from Judith Gap,** said that through the research from the experiment stations, approved forages and grains in livestock has allowed the ranchers to stay in business. He encouraged the Subcommittee to support the Governor's budget or more.

*{Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 4.4 - 5}*

**Ron Ueland, third generation wheat farmer in Montana,** said, " I'm here to testify that I am scared. Scared that we are going to lose our competitive edge in Montana's economy."

**Mr. Ueland** pointed out that biotech is probably the biggest evolution that will happen in agriculture in the long term. He said that the biggest opportunities will be in the biotech field but there will also be huge risk. The agricultural experiment stations will need to play a tremendous role in this evolution process.

**Mr. Ueland** said that these biotech projects are desperately underfunded at Montana State University and the Ag Experiment Stations. **Mr. Ueland** said that to underfund these stations at this point in time, would be a detriment to Montana Agriculture. He said that we need Montana Ag Experiment Stations funded even more. He said, "it is critical time."

*{Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 5 - 6.7}*

**Waine Milmine, Rancer/Farmer in Hysham area,** made two comments. The first one dealt with the sugar plant that was bought in Billings. He said that the company that the plant was bought from ended up funding the capital part and the sugar beet growers found money for the operational part. He said that he never would have invested the dollars if there wasn't an active agricultural research program going on. The sugar beet growers are facing

diseases and weed resistance problems in sugar beets that would simply prevent them from growing sugar beets if the growers don't stay on top of the current, quality agricultural research program.

**Mr. Milmine** second comment was on the agricultural experiment stations programs that deal with cattle programs. He specifically addressed the cross-breed program and how these types of programs are critical to every ranch's operation in the area that he lives in.

***{Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 6.7 - 8.6}***

**Rodney Jabs, citizen who is interested in government,** felt that the best place the government can put its money is in funding basic scientific research. He said that the PhD candidates are self-motivated and are organized. He felt that basic research moves society ahead.

***{Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 8.6 - 9.1}***

**Steven Raska, agricultural producer from Great Falls,** made one point. He said that the price that the producers receive from wheat has been virtually the same for the last 30 years -- between \$3 and \$4 a bushel but the price of the "inputs" have risen from three to 500 percent or more over that same period of time. The producers have survived this by becoming more efficient. More efficient by raising more bushels and raising cheaper bushes. He said, "All that is the result of the efforts from Ag Experiment Station. They are who keep us in business."

***{Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 9.1 - 10.2}***

**Gary Amestoy, representing the Richland County Economic Development Corporation,** passed out written testimony that is being submitted by the Richland County Economic Development Corporation, and said, "me too," as far as what has been said previously by other proponents.

**Mr. Amestoy** said that the Eastern Ag Research Station has provided beneficial services in support of Montana's number one business which is agriculture. And as a result of this support, it has helped the general economic development of the entire area. The Richland County Economic Development Corp. encourages the Subcommittee's support.

**EXHIBIT (jeh27a15)**

***{Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 10.2 - 11.4}***

**Patrick McNulty, Rancher from Buffalo and President of the Judith Basin County Farm Bureau,** told the Subcommittee that due to the Experiment Station Field Days he has always gotten information that will economically benefit his business. With the knowledge gained from the 2002 experience, he has increased his bottom line by \$3,000, which is roughly \$10 an acre. He supplied written testimony.

**EXHIBIT (jeh27a16)**

***{Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 11.4 - 13}***

**Curtis Hershberger, third generation wheat grower from Denton,** also owns an a fertilizer and chemical business for 20 years. He is a crop advisor. He utilizes the information gotten from the Experiment Station on a daily basis.

**Mr. Hershberger** said that the people at the experiment station aren't wasting the money. They are doing everything they can with the money that is provided to them.

**Mr Hershberger's** concern is that if the budget gets cut any further, the information that is needed by Montana farmers/ranchers won't be available. He said that nobody is going to do this research from North Dakota because Montana has specific problems. He said, "So with that, I ask you to support this budget and try and add more dollars. My son just came back as a graduate from MSU in January to the operation here with his new wife and I would like to see a future for them too."

***{Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 13 - 14.6}***

**Tony Zimic, from South Reedy,** strongly supports funding the Experiment Station. He said, "Me too. It's important to me too." With his operation he has a savings of \$11,000 due to the ag research and he is willing to share this savings in a personal way by donating directly to the research center.

**Mr. Zimic** said that the stations have provided wheat check-offs, barley check-offs and research addressing fertilizer and much more that has helped the farmers/ranchers. He said, "We are playing with our natural resources here. And money is nothing as far as I am concerned compared to our natural resources."

**Mr. Zimic** explained one way that the Ag Experiment Station has helped him through his financial situation due to the drought that has occurred for the past five years.

***{Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 14.6 - 16.3}***

**Mike Hollenbeck, representing himself,** said that he concurs with the rest of the speakers, that these experiment stations are invaluable to the future of Montana's agriculture.

**Mr. Hollenbeck** wanted to make one point. He said, "I realize that we are under some budget restraints and we are going to have to do something a little different in some spending areas. But lets not cut off the hub of this wheel that keeps these spokes together regardless what facet of ag production we are in. Let's kinda start with some regulatory people and lets start with the people who have a ticket book and not a research book."

*{Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 16.3 - 17.3}*

**Sue Broyles, a farmer and rancher with her husband,** said that the Rapelje area has 50 years of drought and things look a little bleak. But the research that is currently going on and the future research projects gives her hope. She said that the stations give her hope for better efficiency for her land and new markets that target the consumers.

**Ms. Broyles** said that as a mother she wants to know her children are safe. The experiment station provides the safety factor that is needed. She said "Where else can we go to get research that we can trust?"

*{Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 17.3 - 18.4}*

**Dave Gibson, Chief Business Officer, Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity,** wanted everyone to be aware that his mother-in-law lives on a ranch.

**Mr. Gibson** talked about economics and how technology is going to be needed to improve the productivity in farming/ranching. He addressed what Montana is going to have to do to compete in the global marketplace. He said that if Montana wants to participate in the fastest growing industry in this country, the bio-pharmaceutical industry, the drive will be needed for research in the agricultural industry as well as involving businesses in this state.

**Mr. Gibson** said, "We're not just talking about an issue here that says if you don't drive technology into agriculture that you can just maintain what you have." He implied that if technology isn't provided, the crops won't survive the economics.

**Mr. Gibson** said, "The ag extension research programs that we have in the state, are the principal vehicle by which we drive technology into what amounts to be about 2/3's of the area in

this state." He urged the Subcommittee to seriously consider adequately funding the programs that were addressed today.

***{Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 18.4 - 21.1}***

**Maureen Davey, farmer, rancher, from Stillwater County**, said that 95% of the income comes from feeding and selling cattle. She said that it's been a discouraging couple of years but have been encouraged by the research that the experimental station has done. **Ms. Davey** said, "I tried to teach my children to be polite, to say please and thank you. Please, please, I'm not asking you to hold this program where's it's at. I am asking you to increase it."

***{Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 21.1 - 22.2}***

**CHAIRMAN HEDGES** said that he would like to enter into the record that Women Involved in Farm Economics (WIFE) is a positive supporter of increase funding (Exhibit 17). **REP. DON STEINBEISSER**, Sidney, supports increased funding for the research centers.

**EXHIBIT** (jeh27a17)

***{Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 22.2 - 22.8}***

**Opponents' Testimony:** None.

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

**REP. FRANKLIN** asked Dean Quisenberry what would be needed to build the program and how much would it cost. **Dean Quisenberry** said that the \$793,000, restoration of the faculty in the professional position is critical. Those are the individuals that bring ideas, that bring additional grant dollars. If any money is left, capital equipment would be the second priority. With the funding that was given last time of \$200,000 a match occurred and \$460,000 was raised.

**REP. FRANKLIN** had follow up questions that clarified what the additional money would be used for. **Dean Quisenberry** said that the faculty positions are existing position, that the capital equipment budget would be increased. And to build the program, the value is above the base fiscal 2002 base budget of \$10.18 million.

***{Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 22.8 - 25.6}***

**SEN. JOHNSON** had questions related to the five faculty and two professional positions that were reduced in FY2003 Special Session. **Dean Quisenberry** said that these positions weren't filled because of the budget reductions. The positions were frozen. Dean Quisenberry also explained what the five positions were as well as where the positions were located. It was learned that the Bozeman campus was the only area affected by the budget reductions in the faculty. For the two professional positions that were reduced it was at the Central Station and at the Southern Station.

**SEN. JOHNSON** wanted to know if the leafy spurge program is used on the acreage in the Absorkee area. **Dean Quisenberry** said that the University does use this management program. **SEN. JOHNSON** wanted to know how effective the program is. **Allen Harmsen, Department Head, Veterinary Molecular Biology**, said that it is very effective.

*{Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 25.6 - 29.9}*

**REP. BUZZAS** questions pertained to grants and the leveraging of acquiring more money (matches). **Dean Quisenberry** said that with capital equipment a very good job is done with the high tech equipment. And with the indirect matches there is also the possible matches for the faculty, department, and college.

**Dean Quisenberry** said that with the farm equipment (tractors, combines) a match occurs in the indirect funds. There isn't much money there. There's a little bit from the research centers. But not at the level as with the high tech equipment.

Now as far as the research grants and contracts, **Dean Quisenberry** said, "Out of the money that you have given us, what we have leveraged. An example is when I started in 1999, that year we had \$12.7 million in grants and contracts in the College Agriculture and Experiment Station. In 2000 it went up to \$17.4 million and we think we will probably increase that, no final figures for 2002 but that will go up."

**Dean Quisenberry** said that due to the faculty both on and off campus being able to leverage the dollars that are provided by the state with significant research grants and contracts, has allowed the MAES programs to be what they are today.

*{Tape: 2; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 0 - 2.9}*

**CHAIRMAN HEDGES** had two questions. He asked if the funding was restored up to the proposed Executive Budget, could MAES survive?

**Dean Quisenberry** said, "We could survive. It wouldn't be pretty. But we could survive if the Governor's Budget was accepted."

**CHAIRMAN HEDGES** said that if additional revenue stream could be found that could be used to enhance the budgets across the education field, MAES would even be in better shape if \$793,000 per year was restored. **Dean Quisenberry** said, "Yes that is correct. Basically the reason is because of the people. You start losing faculty lines and losing people with the capability of bringing in dollars and doing those kinds of creative research. You eventually start losing out. And that's why it's a value. And we don't expect all our dollars from the State. We expect to work and bring in additional dollars like we have done."

**CHAIRMAN HEDGES** closed the hearing on the MAES.

*{Tape: 2; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 2.9 - 4.5}*

#### HEARING ON EXTENSION SERVICE

##### Overview of Agency:

**Leroy Luft, Director MSU Extension Service, Interim**, provided a packet to each of the Subcommittee members that has general information relating to the Extension program. Information is provided on the educational programs. The packet is Exhibit 18.

##### **EXHIBIT**(jeh27a18)

In **Dr. Luft's** testimony he provided a brief background on how the Extension Service is funded, the programs that make up the Extension Service, the partnerships that this agency has, and the offices that are at the county level.

*{Tape: 2; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 4.5 - 10.6}*

**Dr. Luft** then discussed the budget. He explained the two page document (Exhibit 19) that was supplied to the Subcommittee members. The figures on the first page reflect the difference between the 2003 expenditures and the 2000 level of General Fund appropriation plus additional present law costs. The second page shows how this agency might address the budget reductions.

In closing, **Dr. Luft** said that the County Extension offices can continue to serve and hopefully expand the role as a conduit or a portal to and from MSU and the people of Montana. He hopes that

there will be better utilization of the full resources of MSU across the state.

Dr. Luft handed in his written testimony and is Exhibit 20.

**EXHIBIT(jeh27a19)**

**EXHIBIT(jeh27a20)**

***{Tape: 2; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 10.6 - 20.5}***

**Proponents' Testimony:**

**REP. SCOTT MENDENHALL, HD 39,** said that he is an extension agent and works on economic development for Jefferson County.

**REP. MENDENHALL** said that through a survey that was done a couple of years ago by the extension service, the top issues across the state were economic development and good paying jobs. He said, "I submit to you that economic development happens at the local level. And furthermore, the key to economic development is staffing. Staffing at the local level."

**REP. MENDENHALL** said that there hasn't been enough money going down to the local level to really make a difference. Extension provides a great opportunity for this State to assist in staffing economic development, community development, positions at the local level where the work can be done. He provided two examples that showed success. One was with his local development corp. and the other was in the alternative crops arena.

**REP. MENDENHALL** said that through the investment to the extension service at the local level, the true needs of the state in economic development could occur. He urged the Subcommittee to take a long hard look at this program, restore the funding and maintain it. He said, "I think it gets a lot of resources right where they need to be."

***{Tape: 2; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 20.5 - 25.5}***

**Jed Evjene, Rancher from Two Dot, and Chairman of the Montana Extension Advisory Council,** explained how the extension service impacts him, his family and the communities in Montana.

**EXHIBIT(jeh27a21)**

***{Tape: 2; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 25.5 - 28}***

***{Tape: 3; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 0 - 1}***



**Lacolle Edwards, Vice President Montana Grain Growers Association (MSGA)**, asked that the Extension Service is adequately funded. He explained why the agency is important and talked about the Extension Working Group. This group has helped in the internal/external review of the Extension agency's structure and the delivery system that is used to provide the information to the public.

**EXHIBIT (jeh27a22)**

*{Tape: 3; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 1 - 3.5}*

**John Swanz, Rancher, Judith Gap, and President of the Montana Stock Growers (MSGA)**, talked about his personal involvement with the Extension Service and the relationship that MSGA has with Montana Extension. He explained the two partnerships that are with the University System. One is in Beef Supply Network and the other is in the Stewardship Program.

**Mr. Swanz** said, "We are trying to become more efficient. And the education arm of the university as specialists are what provides that for us." He asked that the Subcommittee support the Governor's request for the extension program or increase funding if possible.

*{Tape: 3; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 3.5 - 6.4}*

**Thorn Lactea, representing himself**, is a nonindustrial private forest landowner. He talked about the important role of MSU-Extension Forestry. He hopes that the Subcommittee will continue to support the Extension Agency.

**EXHIBIT (jeh27a23)**

*{Tape: 3; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 6.4 - 11.3}*

**Scott Eggensperger, 4-H State President, and Senior from Thompson Falls Sanders County** explained the impact that 4-H has had on him as well as the opportunities that he has had due to the involvement with 4-H. He said that the reason why 4-H provides these opportunities for its members is that 4-H is based on developing life skills, with education through research based information. Information that is provided by the extension service.

**Mr. Eggensperger** said that along with being able to provide literally every possible interest, 4-H covers all economic classes. He said that money usually determines what youth are allowed to participate in. With the 4-H program, the philosophy

is that the members only pay for the project materials and are helped with activities that the member may not be able to afford. By allowing the program to function this way, the program can reach out to every single youth member in the community.

**Mr. Eggensperger** said, "On behalf of 4-H I thank you for your support. I sincerely request that you support a high level of funding for the extension service."

*{Tape: 3; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 11.3 - 15}*

**Marcia Hollandsworth, Farm wife, and Chairman for the "Montanans for 4-H Committee,"** addressed the drought and the toll it is taking on the Agriculture community. With ag research, drought resistance plants and new farming practices have been practiced. She said that extension isn't only the educational arm for research but also specializes in building human capital. She prays that this Subcommittee can fund the extension service.

**EXHIBIT(jeh27a24)**

*{Tape: 3; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 15 - 19.5}*

**Bob Pyfer, Senior Vice President and General Counsel for the Montana Credit Union Network,** explained how the extension service provides information to the credit unions. His talk focused on MontGuides.

**EXHIBIT(jeh27a25)**

*{Tape: 3; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 19.5 - 21.6}*

**Jim Nolan, Bureau Chief, Intergovernmental Human Services Bureau (IHSB), Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services,** explained the active role that the Extension Service provided in the Weatherization Assistance Program, which is a program for low income people that focuses on making their homes more energy efficient. This program started out on a local level and now MSU has been asked by the Federal Department of Energy to establish a national program for lead safe weatherization. The national program is in place and people are being trained across the country.

The second program that **Mr. Nolan** talked about was about a program that is designed to bring housing assistance to people with aids. The extension service is on contract to help administer the program.

**Mr. Nolan** said that the extension service is an organization that has multiple talents and a number of disciplines and they provide very important service to the people of Montana.

**{Tape: 3; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 21.6 - 24.2}**

**Calvin Lane, Farmer/Rancher from Molt**, read the statement from Dave Kelsey who is also a farmer and rancher from Molt. Mr. Kelsey supplied a few personal reasons how the extension programs have helped his business and he requested that the Subcommittee support the extension programs.

**EXHIBIT(jeh27a26)**

**{Tape: 3; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 24.2 - 27.8}**

**Betty Sampsel, Rancher from Stanford**, was asked by the **Judith Basin Commissioners** to testify on their behalf. She said that she uses the extension specialist and county agent at MSU. She explained how Judith Basin has been without an agent since June, 2002. **Ms. Sampsel** said that the on behalf of the commissioners, "We would like to see the extension budget restored as we have not been able to fill that position, Judith Basin County, due to the Special Session cuts. This is one of five positions that wasn't filled in Montana." Judith Basin County has had an extension agent since 1930 and possibly earlier. She said that with the petition drive there is support for the extension service and to provide a county extension agent in Judith Basin County.

**{Tape: 3; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 27.8 - 29.3}**

On behalf of the **Yellowstone County Commissioner, Bill Kennedy, Yellowstone County Commissioner**, explained the extension service 4-H programs that are provided in the city of Billings. He said that the extension agency was moved to the first floor of the courthouse.

**Mr. Kennedy** said, "We feel the extension program is a very good program for us. And it's a program widely supported throughout Yellowstone County. This is a partnership you've heard from other folks. It's a partnership between the State and the counties. We're not asking as county commissioners to not pay our fair share. We would just like the State to come in and fund their share of this program. This is a partnership that we would like see grow."

**Mr. Kennedy** pointed to the kids in the audience and said that these kids are going to be the leaders of tomorrow. The extension

service programs are needed and need to be funded at or above the levels that have been stated. He ended by saying, "Yellowstone County wants to go on record in support."

**{Tape: 3; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 29.3 - 30}**

**{Tape: 3; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 0 - 2}**

**Jim Davison, private citizen,** told about some of the important programs that the local MSU extension office delivers to his community, to his region, to the state and to the world.

**Mr. Davison** is the Executive Director of Anaconda Local Development, Chairman of the Headwaters Economic Development District, and a leader in the Montana Economic Developers Association. In all of these settings he has seen the effect of extension on the work in economic development.

**Mr. Davison** said that the support of MSU extension service should be based on measurable results. He explained how Anaconda with the help of their agent has improved the marketing mix in the retail sector and the hospital's business plan was revamped. He also said that the extension agent from Jefferson County borrowed one of Anaconda's business plans and reworked it for his county.

**Mr. Davison** said that Anaconda was a pilot community for the extension sponsored business retention and expansion survey. There is a formal plan in place that asks businesses what their problems are and how to address them.

**Mr. Davison** said that the extension agent has on her own time worked on a process to develop economic renewal in Poland and Bosnia.

**Mr. Davison** said, "Our community, with the services provided by the MSU extension service has provided leadership, resources, educational opportunities and network. These are tangible results. Extension is worth the State's investment."

**{Tape: 3; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 2 - 6.8}**

**Robert Hanson, Cattle Rancher from White Sulphur Springs and State Vice President of Montana Farm Bureau,** spent the last year working with the extension and revitalizing it. He said that Extension is more than just ag. It serves all the communities it can in the state. Extension is mainly the link between citizens of Montana to their "land grant university."

**Mr. Hanson** said, "It is very important that we maintain that ability to disperse all of the knowledge from MSU. Thank you for supporting it."

***{Tape: 3; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 6.8 - 7.9}***

**Carol Brooker, Sanders County Commissioner and MACo president,** said that both Sanders County and MACo are very much in support of the extension service and feel that the money supplied by the State is spent very well.

**Ms. Brooker** explained how the kids benefit from the programs, how the adults benefit and how the extension agent is a valuable part of the rural community.

**Ms. Brooker** said, "Extension service also contributes to the local government center which provides a lot of assistance to counties and cities all over Montana. And we support that part of the budget. The counties across Montana support extension services and realize the importance in our rural Montana."

**Ms. Brooker** said that the Commission and MACo would like to go on record saying that there is full support for the executive budget. In addition they would like additional funding for the agents that aren't funded for now.

***{Tape: 3; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 7.9 - 9.3}***

**Eric Larsen, Senior at Shelby High School, one of the State officers in the 4-H program,** recited the 4-H pledge that deals with the head, heart, hands, and health. He said that by reciting this he is reminded of what 4-H has taught him and what he is supposed to be doing.

**Mr. Larsen** wanted the Subcommittee to keep in mind the 4-H motto: to make the best better.

**Mr. Larsen** said, "One word that describes 4-H is "priceless," and explained why he felt like that.

***{Tape: 3; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 9.3 - 10.6}***

**Patrick McNulty, rancher from Buffalo and President of the Judith Basin County Farm Bureau,** provided a few personal experience of how extension can improve the economic circumstances for Montana citizens. He asked for support of the extension service programs and if more money can be found that would be helpful.

**EXHIBIT(jeh27a27)**

***{Tape: 3; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 10.6 - 15.4}***

**Diana Adamson, representing herself,** stated the different jobs that she has in Shelby, and said that with the many "hats" that she wears she has used extension and the research center to make things better for herself, her family and her students.

**Ms. Adamson** urged the Subcommittee to fund the extension service at or above the Governor's Budget. She said, "Because when you have a budget that 93% of that budget is personnel, where will the cuts come? The cuts will come at the county where all the help is needed to continue and to provide a way of life. It's a wonderful life in Montana."

***{Tape: 3; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 15.4 - 16.8}***

**Amber King, Senior at Helena High School and part of the State 4-H Officer Team,** said, "We are here today to show you how much extension services and the 4-H program 'ROCKS,' which represents teaching of respect, opportunity, communications, knowledge and service to our community. The 4-H program is a program that 'ROCKS' and has done so for 100 years. I urge you to support Montana's 4-H youth by highly supporting extension."

***{Tape: 3; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 16.8 - 17.5}***

**Eva Hollenbeck, Rancher and part owner of a local elevator in Molt,** talked about the 4-H program. She said that the kids in these 4-H programs "have such a glow." She said that if a poll was taken at the Capitol everyone who works up there would have probably gone through an extension service program and has benefitted from the activities.

**Ms. Hollenbeck** said, "I just think the extension agents show such a role of responsibility and credibility and they relay it back to this youth and I am very proud of them and very proud to be a Montanan. I hope you are too."

***{Tape: 3; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 17.5 - 18.6}***

**Sig Greytak, producer from the Billings area and President of Montana Agri-Women,** said that the Montana Agri-Women are a strong supporter of the extension services because the organization feels that on several levels, very tangible results occur. She said that the extension service provides unbiased information and helps them wade through the data that is out there. There is a

wide array of information that is provided as well as a wide range of programs provided to the public.

**Ms. Greytak** said, "So we really do hope that you can find the funds for these programs - increase the funding, as well as for the research experiment stations."

**{Tape: 3; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 18.6 - 19.7}**

**Anna Marxer, State 4-H Publicity Officer, Beaverhead County,** talked about her scientific experiment that she did using bugs on knapweed. This opportunity happened because of 4-H. Other activities she does because of 4-H are making webpages, and tutoring an elderly lady who is going blind.

**Ms. Marxer** said that when she isn't representing 4-H she practically lives at the extension office. She said, "I have the number on speed dial." Her dad is a rancher and extension is so, so vital to the State. She said, "I know you know that but I want everybody to know that it is so important."

**{Tape: 3; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 19.7 - 21.6}**

**Beth Ann Foster, mother of 2 children who participate in 4-H, and President of the Lewis and Clark County 4-H Council,** said that her children are 4<sup>th</sup> generation 4-H'ers. She explained her extended families involvement with 4-H, as well as her own involvement.

**Ms. Foster** said that on behalf of the Council she is in support of the extension service for the work that they do. She said that her priorities are with the youth of today and her family.

**Ms. Foster** said that the youth programs have shown time and time again that kids have a better chance in life in succeeding and will stay out of trouble. She said, "That is one of my biggest priorities and 4-H does that for us. Thank you for your support of extension."

In addition to the people who testified, **David Broberg, producer from Cut Bank** provided written testimony, in support of the MAES and Extension budget.

**EXHIBIT (jeh27a28)**

**{Tape: 3; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 21.6 - 23}**

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

**SEN. JOHNSON** congratulated all on their testimony and made a comment to Commissioner Kennedy.

***{Tape: 3; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 23 - 23.9}***

Discussion was held on the vacant extension agents' positions (3.5 FTE). Some members on the Subcommittee wanted to know what level of funding would be needed for the various agents and in particular the Judith Basin Extension Agent. **Dr. Luft** said that one of the priorities for additional funding would be to fill these positions (\$200,000).

Clarification occurred also on the 1.4 FTE that is addressed on the second page of Exhibit 19. These vacant positions are .4 as a weed specialist. This specialists deals with cropland weeds, ways to reduce weeds, increase bushels, and economic development. The other position is a beef specialist. It was learned that this beef specialist position is a separate position from the beef transfer position. The latter is basically a marketing position and is included in the Governor's budget.

To help clarify what the funding level would be needed for the extension agents' position, a sheet that showed the positions that are vacant and the amount of funding that is needed was provided to the Subcommittee on 2/10/03 and is Exhibit 1. A copy is provided in these minutes for clarification purposes.

**EXHIBIT (jeh27a29)**

***{Tape: 3; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 23.9 - 28.1}***

***{Tape: 4; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 0 - 2.9}***

**Jed Evjene, from Wheatland County**, asked permission to make one more comment. He said that Wheatland County is very serious about getting a county extension agent. There hasn't been one for 60 years. A mill levy was passed that would fund the County's portion of the salary and he asked the Subcommittee to consider putting Wheatland County in with the rest of the vacant extension agents' positions.

**SEN. MCCARTHY** wanted to know if Wheatland County had passed a mill levy and requested funding prior to this year. **Mr. Evjene** said, "No, Ma'am, not that I am aware of."

**SEN. MCCARTHY** asked if this is a new proposal from your county. **Mr. Evjene** said, "Yes."



**CHAIRMAN HEDGES** said that the hearing is closed for the Extension Service.

*{Tape: 4; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 2.9 - 4.1}*

**HEARING ON MSU FIRE SERVICES TRAINING SCHOOL (FSTS)**

**Butch Weedon, Director of the Fire Services Training School,** explained what the school provides to the community. He stated some of the agency's accomplishments and explained some issues that have arisen due to the budget reductions. His written testimony is Exhibit 30. He also handed a two-page document that explains who they are, how they help, and addressed the budget situation (Exhibit 31).

**EXHIBIT(jeh27a30)**

**EXHIBIT(jeh27a31)**

*{Tape: 4; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 4.5 - 8.2}*

**Bill Perrin, Deputy Chairman of the Fire Service Training School Advisory Council,** explained that a survey was done on fire training and fire services in the State. A model for six field trainers that would be placed around six different regions, with support staff was adopted. Presently there are four field trainers and throughout the years there has been attempts to increase the number of field trainers.

**Mr. Perrin** said that there has been great support from fire service organizations and chiefs in these attempts of acquiring more field trainers but due to the economic situation that Montana is facing, the Council is requesting at this time if the field trainers could be held at four. He said, "We would be satisfied and gratified if that could be done."

**Mr. Perrin** said, "Our trainers are just like extension agents. They are much the same. They are in the communities, doing the work at the grass roots level. We think that is very important and we think that is how the services should be delivered."

**Mr. Perrin** thanked the Subcommittee for the support and asked that the funding be held at the present level.

Mr. Perrin provided a newsletter that was prepared by the Fire Services Training Advisory Council and is Exhibit 32.

**EXHIBIT(jeh27a32)**

*{Tape: 4; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 8.3 - 12.2}*

**Darin Arganbright, Fire Chief of the Carter Volunteer Fire Department**, explained how the training school has assisted the volunteer fire department, both in grant application and structure training. He said that the FSTS has been a vital source of unbiased advice and input on all aspects of equipment and fire training. He urged the Subcommittee to maintain the level of funding that is needed to have a productive agency. His written testimony is Exhibit 33.

**EXHIBIT (jeh27a33)**

*{Tape: 4; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 12.3 - 14.6}*

**Bruce Evans, Fire Chief at Geyser, and Chairman of Judith Basin County Fire District** said that he is here to support funding in extension and specifically FSTS. FSTS provides training to fire departments statewide. If the school goes away there wouldn't be a source for that training. The school not only provides formal training, but also provides support. In addition, it is an informational resource for the fire departments.

**Mr. Evans** provided examples of successful extractions. He said that the formal training that was done allowed for these successful recoveries. **Mr. Evans** said that with the help and support of FSTS the Judith Basin Fire District received a FEMA grant in the amount of over \$160,000.

An additional comment that **Mr. Evans** made was that he was a 4-H member. He said, "Without extension and 4-H, I don't think I would have developed the skills that I have to help the community the way I can today."

**Mr. Evans** asked that the Subcommittee fund extension and FSTS at a level that would allow all programs to continue and operate at or above current levels. He believes that the training that FSTS does, will continue to save lives.

*{Tape: 4; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 14.7 - 18.2}*

**Mark Peterson, farmer, North of Havre**, said that he has in the past participated with FSTS and received several trainings. He said, "I want to tell you that it is high quality and very needed. Please support it."

*{Tape: 4; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 18.3 - 18.6}*

**Mike Meloskey, EMT (quick response medical unit in Great Falls area), and member of the Mount Patrol Search and Rescue** asked that the Subcommittee continue to support the four field

trainers. The classes that are taught are vitally important to the safety of Montanans and the firefighters, EMT, and Search and Rescue people.

**Mr. Meloskey** talked about the last class on incident command that he attended. He said that Montana is a leader with the incident command system and training throughout the state. The trainers are vital to the success of and safety of all the people who are involved with accidents. He said, "So please do what you can in these difficult fiscal times to provide the funding for us."

***{Tape: 4; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 18.7 - 20.4}***

**Leonard Lunoby, Chief of the Vaughn Fire Department, and Vice President of Montana State Volunteer Fire Fighters Association (District 3)**, said that without proper training, the type of training that FSTS provides, it would not only be crazy to run into a burning building, it would be deadly.

**Mr. Lunoby** said that nearly 100 percent of Vaughn Volunteer Fire Department training comes from the fire school in one way or another. Examples are: 1) curriculum that the school has developed; 2) direct training from trainers in the field; or 3) train the trainer associates in which members of the fire department are trained to come back to their department and deliver that training to the members.

**Mr. Lunoby** said, "Montana State Volunteer Fire Fighters Association believes so strongly that the Fire School is underfunded that last year we gave them \$10,000 to provide help in funding training opportunities around the state. We ask that you match that type of commitment that a group of volunteers in Montana has -- like providing that kind of money. We would ask that you do that also."

***{Tape: 4; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 20.5 - 22.2}***

**John Semple, representing the Montana Fire Alliance**, which is basically the umbrella for the volunteer fire entities, said that the Alliance concurs with all the previous testimony. He said that the average retention time for a volunteer is about eight years. He made the point that since these are volunteer firefighters it is much more financially sound if the trainers go to the individual fire houses than if the volunteers would have to come to a place like Great Falls where the FSTS office is at.

***{Tape: 4; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 22.3 - 23.0}***

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

**SEN. JOHNSON** said that he is aware of having a number of fire training service schools around the state. He asked Mr. Weedon to explain what those schools are and how they relate to FSTS and how the funding mechanism works for these schools that aren't part of FSTS.

**Mr. Weedon** said that the other fire-related programs in the university system are academic programs where COT-Helena and MSU-Billings both offer two-year degree programs for people who would like to be professional firefighters or be involved in the emergency services. These programs are run like most academic programs.

**Mr. Weedon** said that FSTS is a nonacademic program even though FSTS does participate with COT-Great Falls in an academic program, there is no credit offered for anything that FSTS does. This program is 100 percent outreach, designed to take training to the firefighters all over the state. **Mr. Weedon** said, "And not to mislead you, we do offer some central training opportunities as well. We typically try to recover our costs for those. But by far the vast majority of General Fund resource goes in to those outreach opportunities."

**SEN. JOHNSON** wanted to know if Mr. Weedon felt that FSTS loses part of its funding to the training that deals with complicated maneuvers like ones that are done out at the airport in Helena.

**Mr. Weedon** said that he hasn't seen any evidence that FSTS has lost any funding yet. He said that those programs are targeting a different audience than what FSTS is targeting. The partnership with MSU-Great Falls, deals with the 10,000 firefighters. Those other academic programs are targeting people who want to be firefighters and who want an associate fire science degree (two-year program) or something similar to that.

***{Tape: 4; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 23.1 - 26.9}***

**REP. FRANKLIN** wanted to know what the "practical wish list" is for FSTS. **Mr. Weedon** said that the current level funding for FY02 which is listed on the first page of Exhibit 31 would accomplish the objective of maintaining four field trainers. He said, "We will be pretty tight. But we will find a way to get it done."

***{Tape: 4; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 27.0 - 28.0}***

**CHAIRMAN HEDGES** wanted clarification on how many volunteer firefighters are in Montana. **Mr. Weedon's** estimate is about

10,000, with approximately 4%, or 450 or so, being career firefighters.

**CHAIRMAN HEDGES** wanted to know how many of those firefighters have gone through the training program. **Mr. Weedon** said, "There are multitude levels of competency, and there are retraining requirements, information and skills all have a half-life, so there is an on-going requirement."

**Mr. Weedon** said, "It's our belief from the measures that we have been able to take that we have had a positive impact on the ability of just over 50% of those fire departments to function at our current level of funding with four field trainers. That doesn't mean that the other 50% are in dire straights, certainly some percentage of them are in dire straights." He then gave an example of what's happening in the City of Billings as well as what happened at one of the training sessions that FSTS put on.

**CHAIRMAN HEDGES** wanted to know if there has been a survey done on how many of the rural fire departments are also EMT stations.

**Mr. Weedon** said, "I heard a figure quoted by the State EMS Bureau about a week ago that indicated that there was 17% of the EMS organizations are subsets of fire departments. I can't attest to the validity or the accuracy of that." He said that the figure came from a State EMS Bureau Administrator.

**CHAIRMAN HEDGES** said that the hearing on the Fire Service Training School is closed.

**CHAIRMAN HEDGES** said that executive action on these agencies will be done the first part of next week (2/10/03).

***{Tape: 4; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 28.1 - 30.1}***

***{Tape: 4; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 0 - 2.1}***

In addition to the documents that were provided by the agencies, the Legislative Fiscal Division previously provided a spreadsheet that reflects the entire Montana University System--Fiscal 2000 Adjusted Base and Executive Budget Recommendation -- 2005 Biennium. The agencies that were discussed during this day are called the Research/Public Service Agencies. Some Committee members may have referenced this document (green sheet) as well as the agency's document that showed budget information. The spreadsheet is Exhibit 34.

**EXHIBIT (jeh27a34)**

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 11.52 A.M.

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REP. DONALD L. HEDGES, Chairman

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DIANA WILLIAMS, Secretary

DH/DW

**EXHIBIT** (jeh27aad)